CHere foloweth a lytell treatyse of the Beaute of Women newly translated out of Frenshe in to Englyshe.

The sone of the mayde whome neuer none resembled
In beaulte nor bounte syth the worlde began
For both in hyr were perfaytely assembled
Named is she Marye doughter to sayne Anne
Guyde myne hande so that the gentylman
That me delyred to reduce thys boke
From frenshe to englyshe/ be content/ and than
I take lytell cure what other there on loke.
¶ In frenshe (la beaute de femmes) is yt named
The beaulte of women/ in our Englyshe languag
wherof to treate/ I ought well to be blamed
Consydered that I had neuer the vsage
womens beaulte in body nor vysage
For to regarde/ and there vpon good reason
Syth I am made (as an vnpleasant page)
A cast a way from presence at ethe season
¶ But what therof shall I leue of to wryte
Syth no man hauyng more practyse then I
wyll take the payne to set blacke on the whyte
And yt a thynge so dygne of memory
May trust me playne I shall my selfe applye
Of the frenshe boke to folow the sentence
Beaulte (as ryght requireth) to glorifye
what euer foloweth of the consequence
¶ what caused the wourthy Troylus of Troye
To cast hys loue on Cresyde the shene
why set Paris on fayre Helayne hys ioye
what caused Achylles to loue Polexene
why loued Tristram la belle Isoude the quene
Or Arthur of bretayne the fayre Florence
All cam of theyr beaulte and theyr plesant eyen
what haue I to do as of the consequence.

¶ Beaulte as for the fyrſte require wolde
That the womam(how euer ſtande the caſe)
Symple maner and countenaunce ſholde holde
For otherwyſe ſhe wyll avoyde the place
¶ womans beaulte eche perſon reproueth
yf ſo be that ſhe bayre the countenaunce
More eleuate or hygh than yt behoueth
Hyr beaulte tourneth but all to dyſpleſance
¶ Beaulte requireth as for the ſeconde parte
That woman bayre euer naturally
Symple regade and not ouerthwarte
wyth playſante and ſymple caſtyng of the eye
¶ Beaulte is loſt in woman oultrely
yf ſhe haue thys of very condycyon
As to regarde or loke dyſpyteouſly
For that is the manner of the lyon
¶ woman,ans beaulte requireth thyrdely
That ſtedfaſtly with out oultrage
She kepe as dyſcrete cõtynually
Symple anſwer euer in her language
¶ womans beaulte that ſholde be magnyfyed
Lyetly compaſſed in theſe thre poyntes onely
what beaulte ſo euer is to her applyed
The woman ought to lede hyr lyfe ſymply
¶ Beaulte of ſuerty doeth that woman folowe
That hath the browes and raynes of the backe
And there withall the fete lyght and holowe
yf theſe thre be holowe there is no lacke.
¶ Beaulte in woman is nothyng pleaſant
That glometh with her eyen with frowarde chere
And is of hyr raynes ſo heuy and preſant
And of hyr fete as yf a beeſt yt were

¶ womans beaulte ſhall ye fynde doubtleſſe
In thre hygh poyntes that on hyr body gent
Ought for to be/& them I ſhall expreſſe
Here after/yf my remembraunce aſſent
¶ Beaulte ſayeth/the fyrſt poynt to knowe
The woman ſholde haue the forhed hygh & fayre
For whan ſhe hath the forhed ouer lowe
Euyll hyr beſemeth a frontelet to bayre
¶ womans beaulte requyreth ſecondly
Of beaulte a rygh̄t who that enquire wolde
That woman ought to haue the hed hygh
The better therwyth hyr hat ſhe doeth vpholde
¶ Beaulte in woman playnly doeth habounde
yf ſhe ne fayle as for the thyrde parte
To haue the breſtes hygh fayre and rounde
wyth fyne gorgias well and fayre couert
¶ womans beaulte as in preemynence
Requireth theſe thre poyntes pryncypall
For to be founde vpon hyr corpulence
And well on hygh̄t they ought for to be all
¶ womans beaulte expreſſly for to ſhowe
As to the regarde of hyr countenaunce
Requireth ouer thys to haue thre poyntes lowe
whych all women ought to haue in remembraunce
¶ womans beaulte that pourchaſe wyll prayſyng
woll that the woman ſet her beſy cure
To mayntayne in hyr ſelfe a low laughyng
To laugh ouer hygh beſemeth no creature
¶ Beaulte yet cõmaundeth afterwarde
Unto all women thys poynt ſecondly
To haue alwayes a lowely regarde
Not ouer moche but moderately

¶That woman hath the bent of beaultyes bowe
That can regarde in helth and in dysease
whan she shall neese to make the sounde but lowe
To do otherwyse yt may no person please
¶womans beaulte wyll in conclusyon
Of these lowe poyntes without dessoyaulte
That women bere euer a lowly condycyon
For otherwyse she leseth her beaulte.
¶Beaulte demaundeth these poyntes to haue sene
In women that be fayre and fayre at all
To haue trayteys the browes/and traytys eyen
And lytell the handes/traytys slender and small
¶Beaulte hath she that hath the chyn dympled
The ioyntes of the handes sholde be in lyke manere
The chekes also be they bare or wympled
Especyally whan she smyleth with hyr chere.
¶Beaulte requireth large to haue these thre
The fyrste is the space goyng from eye to eye
Betwyxt the sholders sholde the seconde be
The thyrde betwyxt the raynes ye shall espye.
¶Perfayt beaulte ye may well determyne
In woman/so that these thre in hyr repayre
The nayles and the lyppes cõplexyon sanguyne
And ruddy the chekes well vermayled and fayre
¶womans beaulte thou doest well expose
Or mayst expose wythout tarryeng
yf thou retayne in thy mynde close
All that is set before in this wrytyng.
¶Of beaulte yf there be any woman
More purely sped than is cõprysed in this
was neuer woman syth the worlde began
So perfaytly sped of beaulte as she is

¶ I haue expressed theyr preemynence
As well of theyr bodyes as of theyr mayntyen
But speke what ye wyll apert or in scylence
Beaulte sans bonte ne vault rien.
¶ Beaultyes there be in women infynyte
But of bontyes there is but lytell speche
Beaulte is them geuen as thyng requisyte
who wyll haue bonte let hym go seche
Thys not wythstandyng I coulde a man teche
To fynde right good of the gendre feminyn
And fayre also/but what euer we preche
Beaulte sans bonte ne vault rien.
¶ Beaulte ennobleth the person doubtlesse
And playnly she is of the more valeure
But wyth beaulte is requisyte goodnesse
To speke a right who so wyll sett hys cure
Bonte wyll not be vnder coverture
where euer she be/hyr purete is so fyne
wherfore I set agayne in thys scrypture
Beaulte sans bonte ne vault rien.
¶ Mayde/wyfe/or wydowe/dame/or damoysell
That haue the rape of beaulte comprysed in your face
Adiouste therto bonte/than shall ye do right well
For beaulte with bonte assembled in a place
Gyue demonstrance of an especyall grace
Geuen to the person/as I take the cause
At syse smyleth bonte/where beaulte laugheth at ace
As dayly yt is sene/and there a fynall clause.

FINIS

¶ Thus endeth the Beaulte of women newly Imprynted
By Rychard Fawkes dwellyng in duram rent

REPRODUCED FROM THE COPY IN THE

HENRY E. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

FOR REFERENCE ONLY. NOT FOR REPRODUCTION